

**United States House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings
and Emergency Management**

Statement of Phillip D. Morse, Sr., Chief, United States Capitol Police

April 1, 2008

**Hearing on “A Growing Capitol Complex and Visitor Center: Needs for
Transportation, Security, Greening, Energy and Maintenance”**

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**Regarding “A Growing Capitol Complex and Visitor Center: Needs for
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Madam Chair, Chairman Oberstar, Congressman Mica, Congressman Graves, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me here today to discuss the United States Capitol Police Department’s involvement on the Office of the Architect of the Capitol’s (AOC’s) Capitol Complex Master Plan, as well as our ongoing planning for the security requirements of the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) and the Department’s efforts to support the AOC’s energy conservation program.

I would like to begin my comments by acknowledging the relationship we enjoy between the United States Capitol Police and the AOC. While faced with many facilities and security issues, we have formed a collaborative relationship intent on finding solutions for our common goal of providing a Capitol Complex that provides for the operational and security needs of the Legislative Branch.

AOC Capitol Complex Master Plan

The Complex is now comprised of some 16.5 million square feet of buildings and nearly 450 acres of land. The Department works closely with the AOC to better understand how projects create security challenges, allowing the Department to forecast necessary resources required to provide security during the renovation/construction or

expansion of the Capitol Complex, as well as how additional personnel and equipment requirements will drive space needs within USCP facilities.

The Capitol Complex Master Plan includes Facilities Condition Assessments (FCA), which are used to evaluate the extent of the backlog of deferred maintenance. Two of the facilities that directly affect the Department are incorporated into the FCA. This includes the Department's Vehicle Maintenance Facility. The deferred maintenance projects affecting the Department reside low within the prioritization of AOC projects. Further, new security work has been emphasized within the Master Plan, in lieu of deferred or recurring facility maintenance. Realizing that the AOC has many competing priorities for its limited resources, we are concerned that the Department's facilities are in jeopardy of deterioration and that those under leased occupancy may not realize long term resolution without additional resources being provided to the AOC.

Another aspect of the Master Plan's effect on the Department relates to the impact that various projects have on our security systems and operations. Currently, the Department is working with the AOC to provide security for the ongoing Tunnel Project, as well as the completion of the Capitol Visitor Center. As the tunnel system allows access to various Congressional Buildings and thus to the Capitol itself, the Department must provide sworn personnel to be posted each time an exterior hatch, manhole, grate or door is opened to support the tunnel retrofit project. To date the Department has been able to mitigate the security vulnerabilities via physical security modifications, thus limiting our sworn staffing requirements. However, as the project moves forward we anticipate that considerable sworn staffing requirements will be required to fully support the AOC's efforts.

Another project which effects security is the upcoming American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial (AVDLM), which is slated for construction on a parcel of land bounded by 2nd Street Southwest, the C Street Southwest ramp to I-295, the D Street Southwest ramp to I-395, and I-295. The most recent designs have met the approval of the National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the DC

Department of Transportation, and the Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation (DVLMF). The Memorial will be built in two phases, the memorial phase encompassing the actual memorial, and the utility phase encompassing the streets, traffic signaling, and infrastructure. The utility phase (anticipated to start in 2008 and take approximately one year to complete) will require USCP oversight as it requires the reconfiguration of C Street, I-295 off ramps, I-395 tunnel waterproofing, and the rerouting of USCP security and House of Representatives utility infrastructure. All work associated with this project will be performed by others, however it will impact Congressional assets and will require the Department to monitor the project to mitigate security issues should they occur.

Further, the Federal Office Building Number 8 (FOB 8) is a General Services Administration (GSA) owned and operated facility located at 200 C Street, SW. FOB 8, is currently being completely renovated to accommodate approximately 400,000 square feet of office space, of which approximately 200,000 square feet will be leased by the AOC for occupancy by committee staff of the U.S. House of Representatives. This project currently has a timeline, which indicates initial occupancy in December 2010. The USCP have been coordinating with the AOC and GSA to ensure that all requisite security measures are incorporated into the facility. The project is currently in a design development phase, which is focused on the grounds and structure of the facility. At this design level the security features include a rated perimeter security line located at the curb, rated operable vehicle barriers for the parking garage entry, a hardened kiosk for the parking garage entry, personnel and package screening equipment, and increased structural hardening (walls and windows) for blast mitigation. Subsequent design phases for the interior of the facility will include security features such as, intrusion detection alarms, duress alarms, CCTV security cameras, and electronic access control equipment.

I would also like to focus on some ongoing facility requirements directly facing the Department. Previously, the USCP identified facilities needs through a Facilities Master Plan. The USCP worked with the AOC and established the first plan in 1999 that forecasted the needs of the Department into the year 2010. Subsequently, Facilities Implementation Plans were created that outlined short and long term needs and provided

timelines for achieving those requirements. Those initial plans resulted in establishing short and medium term leases designed to bridge the gap until permanent solutions could be funded and constructed. Currently, the Department is seeking a permanent solution for an Off-Site Delivery Center, Vehicle Maintenance Facility, Property Management storage facility, Command and Communications complex, to include the radio and data center, and a long-term location consolidation for occupants of the Fairchild and current headquarters buildings, such as a new headquarters facility. All of these operations, except the current headquarters, are in leased on a reimbursable status with the outstanding requirement for long-term solutions.

The current temporary offsite delivery center was originally designed and scoped as a five year solution to replicate the existing process, but will not accommodate the full transfer model for security screening of deliveries to the Capitol Complex to reduce trucks coming to the Capitol Complex. Based on the Capitol Police Board's determination, the Department is working with the AOC to locate an adequate location for a transfer model facility intended to house an inspection facility, vehicle staging area and logistical support. The utilization of a transfer model reduces the threat from vehicle borne improvised explosive devices, which are the #1 threat to the Capitol Complex.

Further, the Department is working with the AOC to examine the facilities requirements associated with the Department's new radio system project, as well as our overall data and communication center requirements.

Finally, the Department is in need for a new USCP Headquarters building. A new building would offer the opportunity to consolidate most operations into a single structure, improving overall efficiency and minimizing lease costs. These projects are critical to Police operations and I hope are considered when prioritizing limited resources for future construction. The Department has worked closely with the Capitol Police Board and its Oversight Committees in the past on this issue and we greatly appreciate this Subcommittee's support and the investment Congress has made in our facilities and infrastructure over the past several years.

Because of the evolving facilities requirements to the Department and the inability to incorporate additional personnel or functions within existing USCP facilities, we are continuing our work with the AOC to affect revisions to the Jurisdiction Plan to include the Department's current space requirements. These requirements incorporate the merger of the Library of Congress Police, as well as the initiatives contained within the Department's FY 2009 budget estimate. In addition, the Department recently concluded a manpower study for all processes within our operational mission. We are utilizing the results of this study to determine future staffing needs of the Department and the resulting facilities and support requirements. The outcome of these determinations will also be provided to the AOC for inclusion in the Jurisdiction Plan.

Capitol Visitor Center Update

The USCP has worked closely with the AoC on final steps to prepare the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) for an initial occupancy by July 31, 2008. With the completion of the CVC in November 2008, there will be the capability and the capacity to welcome larger numbers of guests and visitors at any one time to the Capitol. This new facility will efficiently process high volumes of guests and visitors and bring them into a safe, controlled and monitored environment as quickly as possible, while maintaining the highest level of security and protection.

The United States Capitol Police has developed operational plans for its role in supporting this effort. These plans have several primary objectives:

- To move guests and visitors as quickly as possible through our screening process so we can welcome them into a safe and secured facility;
- To provide an immediate and appropriate response to any event which may occur within the facility;

- To provide the maximum support, protection and response for Members and their staff while they are conducting business and meeting with constituents within the Capitol Visitor Center, and;
- To use state-of-the-art security technology and practices to maximize throughput of visitors and efficiently utilize police staffing for proper security and law enforcement coverage within the CVC.

What these plans cover is nothing new to the current operations of the U.S. Capitol Police. Our planning assumptions have consistently relied upon the state-of-the-art CVC entrance configuration to process large numbers of visitors in a more efficient manner so that we can sustain the high security standards currently maintained throughout the Capitol Complex. With the anticipated influx of visitors, we are mindful of the need to closely monitor and regulate the number of visitors in the Capitol and the CVC at any given time so that we can ensure that an evacuation of these structures can be accomplished in a safe and timely manner.

The Department understands that the concept of operations for the CVC has not been finalized and further adjustments may be made to ensure that the facility provides for the needs of visitors to the Capitol Complex, while serving as a working building in which the Congress may conduct its business.

The Department is conducting training on emergency procedures and evacuation plans for the CVC. However, the overall training provided to all of our sworn personnel addresses crowd control under various operational situations. We believe that this training and its operational application provide our personnel with the resources necessary to address increased pedestrian traffic resulting from the operation of the CVC.

The USCP operates under a unified incident command system. This system allows for the reassignment of resources and personnel to meet critical needs throughout the Capitol complex. We believe that we have the capability to move personnel in a timely manner to address surges in pedestrian flow, as well as other events, while maintaining the security of the Capitol complex.

Based on historical data, tourists to the Nation's Capitol do not typically drive to their locations. Therefore, we would anticipate the same flow of vehicular traffic that is currently present. The Department currently supports large charter buses dropping off visitors to the Capitol on First Street NW/SW along the West Front.

The Department is continuing its discussions with the AOC and the District's Department of Transportation to look at bus routes on the Capitol Complex, as well as the most efficient methods for transporting visitors, while maintaining our operational security plans for the complex. Should the concept of Circular buses be approved to move tourist around the Capitol complex, as well as address increased pedestrian flow, we believe that additional personnel and infrastructure resources may be necessary to address impacts at First Street and Independence Avenue resulting from these Circulator buses.

As for the impacts on office buildings and other buildings on the Capitol Complex resulting from additional pedestrian traffic associated with the CVC, we do not anticipate an increase in personnel needs for this purpose at this time. Based on the physical constraints on the pedestrian flow through the building entrances and available equipment, we do not believe that the flow of pedestrian traffic through the entrances would be increased should the Department provide addition of personnel at these screening locations.

Support the AOC's Energy Conservation Efforts

In an effort to support the Legislative Branch's energy conservation initiative, the Department serve as a member of the Legislative Branch Chief Administrative Officer Council' Green Buildings/Processes Working Group addressing this matter. Additionally, the Department is working with the AOC on an energy conservation evaluation of the USCP facilities. When the AOC worked with the Department to develop the Fairchild Building for our use, many energy efficient aspects were adopted in

the retrofit of space. Some examples of these are: the installation of recyclable carpet and ceiling tiles, the adaptation of the mechanical and electrical systems using conservation technology, low flow restroom plumbing fixtures and the utilization of T-8 fluorescent lighting.

In addition, the Department is incorporating hybrid and E-85 vehicles into the lifecycle replacement of our fleet were feasible and thus far converted 16% of our fleet to alternate fuel vehicles. Further, we have a fleet of 91 bicycles, which are utilized to provide campus coverage and mobility for operational activities.

Conclusion

The Department remains committed to continuing the highest level of security and service provided to the Congress and the visitors of the Capitol Complex. With the continued support of the Congress and our partners at the AOC, the Department will be able to provide for the sworn workforce and operational support mechanisms needed to meet the security requirements of the Complex. Once again, thank you for this opportunity to discuss these issues with you today. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.